

For Immediate Release

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APPLICATIONS OPEN NOV 10th
for the 34th Annual Irving M. Klein International String Competition

June 1 - 2, 2018, San Francisco California

(San Francisco CA) Applications open November 10, 2018 for **The Irving M. Klein International String Competition**, produced by the California Music Center and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Violinists, violists, cellists and bassists **ages 15 to 23 of any nationality not currently under professional management** are eligible to compete **June 1-2, 2018 in San Francisco** at the Conservatory. For more details on prizes, repertoire and to submit an online application, visit kleincompetition.org. **Applications to be received by midnight Saturday, February 2, 2019.**

For the past 33 years, the Klein has attracted some of the world's finest young string players to San Francisco each June to compete for cash and performance prizes. The Klein Competition has achieved international recognition as one of the most prestigious classical music competitions, recognized for the high caliber of the contestants; its unique, nurturing environment; and its commitment to the commissioning of new works. We're pleased to announce that the Commissioned Works for this year's Klein Competition will be written by **Carlos Oliver Simon**. The competition is named for the late cellist and master teacher who devoted himself untiringly to the development of young artists.

Its award carries the distinction that has helped many top soloists gain prominence in the competitive world of classical music, including **Jennifer Koh, Mark Kosower, Vadim Gluzman, Jennifer Frautschi, Alban Gerhardt, Frank Huang** and **Robert deMaine; Oliver Herbert (2015), David Requiro (2006), Tessa Lark (2008) and Nikki Chooi (2009)**; and principal chairs in many of the finest U.S. orchestras, including the **Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, the New York Philharmonic, and the Boston Symphony.**

Alex Zhou, a 16-year old violin student of Zhao Wei at the Pre-College Division of the San Francisco



Conservatory of Music won 2018's First Prize, receiving more than \$13,000 in prizes, including performances with the Klein's producing partners, Peninsula and Santa Cruz Symphonies, the Gualala Arts Chamber Music Series, and the Music in the Vineyards Festival. Zhou's winning performances included Mozart's *Sonata No. 18 in G Major* and the [Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 35](#), as well as the competition commissioned work by David Froom, *Violinitude – Eine Kleinemusik*.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC CENTER

CMC was founded in 1974 by Irving M. Klein, a virtuoso chamber musician and master cello teacher, as the sponsoring organization for a summer music institute and chamber music series for young artists. Following Mr. Klein's passing in 1985, CMC inaugurated the Irving M. Klein International String Competition ("the Klein") in 1986; since then, the Klein has become one of the most prestigious events of its kind, attracting ever-increasing numbers of entries annually from throughout the world and helping to enhance the developing careers of players who have gone on to become renowned soloists, chamber musicians, teachers, and prominent members of the world's finest orchestras. Learn more: californiamusiccenter.org.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER CARLOS OLIVER SIMON



Carlos Simon is a native of Atlanta, Georgia whose music ranges from concert music for large and small ensembles to film scores with influences of jazz, gospel, and neoromanticism. He currently serves as composer/music technology lecturer and director of Spelman College's Contemporary Popular Music Ensemble. Simon's latest album, *MY ANCESTOR'S GIFT*, was released on the Navona Records label in April 2018. Featured on Apple Music's "Albums to Watch", *MY ANCESTOR'S GIFT* incorporates spoken word and historic recordings.

As a part of the Sundance Institute, Simon was named as a Sundance Composer Fellow in 2018, which was held at the historic Skywalker Ranch. His string quartet, *Elegy*, honoring the lives of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner was recently performed at the Kennedy Center for the Mason Bates JFK Jukebox Series. With support from the US Embassy in Tokyo and US/Japan Foundation, Simon traveled with the Asia/America New Music Institute on a two-week tour in 2018 performing in some of the most sacred temples and concert spaces in Japan including Suntory Hall in Tokyo. Recent accolades include being a Composer Fellow at the Cabrillo Festival for Contemporary Music, winning the Underwood Emerging Composer Commission from the American Composers Orchestra in 2016, the prestigious Marvin Hamlisch Film Scoring Award in 2015, and the Presser Award from the Theodore Presser Foundation in 2015.

Serving as music director and keyboardist for GRAMMY Award-winner Jennifer Holliday, Simon has performed with the Boston Pops Symphony, Jackson Symphony, and the St. Louis Symphony. He has toured internationally with soul GRAMMY nominated-artist, Angie Stone, throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Simon earned his doctorate degree at the University of Michigan, where he has studied with Michael Daugherty and Evan Chambers. He earned degrees from Georgia State University and Morehouse College. coliversimon.com ###

Hi-res and online photos available from marcy@californiamusiccenter.org